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THUNDER STRIKE
A DAY IN THE LIFE!
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WHEN ARCHITECT ERIC MASTERSON STAMPS HIS WOODEN WALKING STICK UPON THE GROUND, IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A MYSTICAL WEAPON CALLED THUNDERSTRIKE! ARMED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS, MASTERSON WORKS TO PROVE THAT ONE MAN MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECAUSE THIS WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES! STAN LEE PRESENTS ...

THUNDERSTRIKE!

A DAY IN THE LIFE!

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UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THE BEST PLANS HAVE THEIR DRAWBACKS!
YOU INSUFFERABLE IDIOT!
BY FOCUSING YOUR TEDIOUS THUNDERBLASTS AGAINST MY ARMAGEDDON COMPLEX--INSTEAD OF ME--YOU HAVE OBLITERATED SEVERAL MONTHS OF DELICATE RESEARCH.
MY TIMETABLE TO PLAGUE MANKIND WILL BE SET BACK INDEFINITELY!

TOUGH BREAK, FROGGY! MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE UP A HOBBY IN THE MEANTIME.
SOMETHING CALM AND SOOTHING LIKE RUSSIAN ROULETTE!
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO SOUND SO SMUG, HUMAN!
I HAVE ALREADY BRANDED YOU WITH THE MARK OF DEATH!
STEP A LITTLE CLOSER SO THAT I CAN RETURN THE FAVOR BY INTRODUCING YOU TO MY ENCHANTED MACE--
--FACE TO FACE!

EVEN AS ERIC HAULS BACK TO FLAT TEN THE ANGRY IMMORTAL--

--FATE CHOOSES THAT VERY INSTANT TO INTRUDE!

¡UGNN! T-THIS RAGING TORRENT'S ICE COLD-- AND IT'S S-SEPARATING ME FROM S-SETH!

T-THE ENTIRE BASE IS LOSING STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY!

I-IT'S STARTING TO COLLAPSE!

JUST THEN, AS STELLARIS ARRIVES ON THE BANK OF THE HUDSON...

FINALLY MANAGED TO GET BLOODAXE TO SAFETY!

BY THE BLACK GALAXY, I SWEAR I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE WAY BLONDIE THINKS...

BLOODAXE HAS BRUTALLY BEATEN HIM ON MANY OCCASIONS... AND RECENTLY VOWED TO KILL HIM!

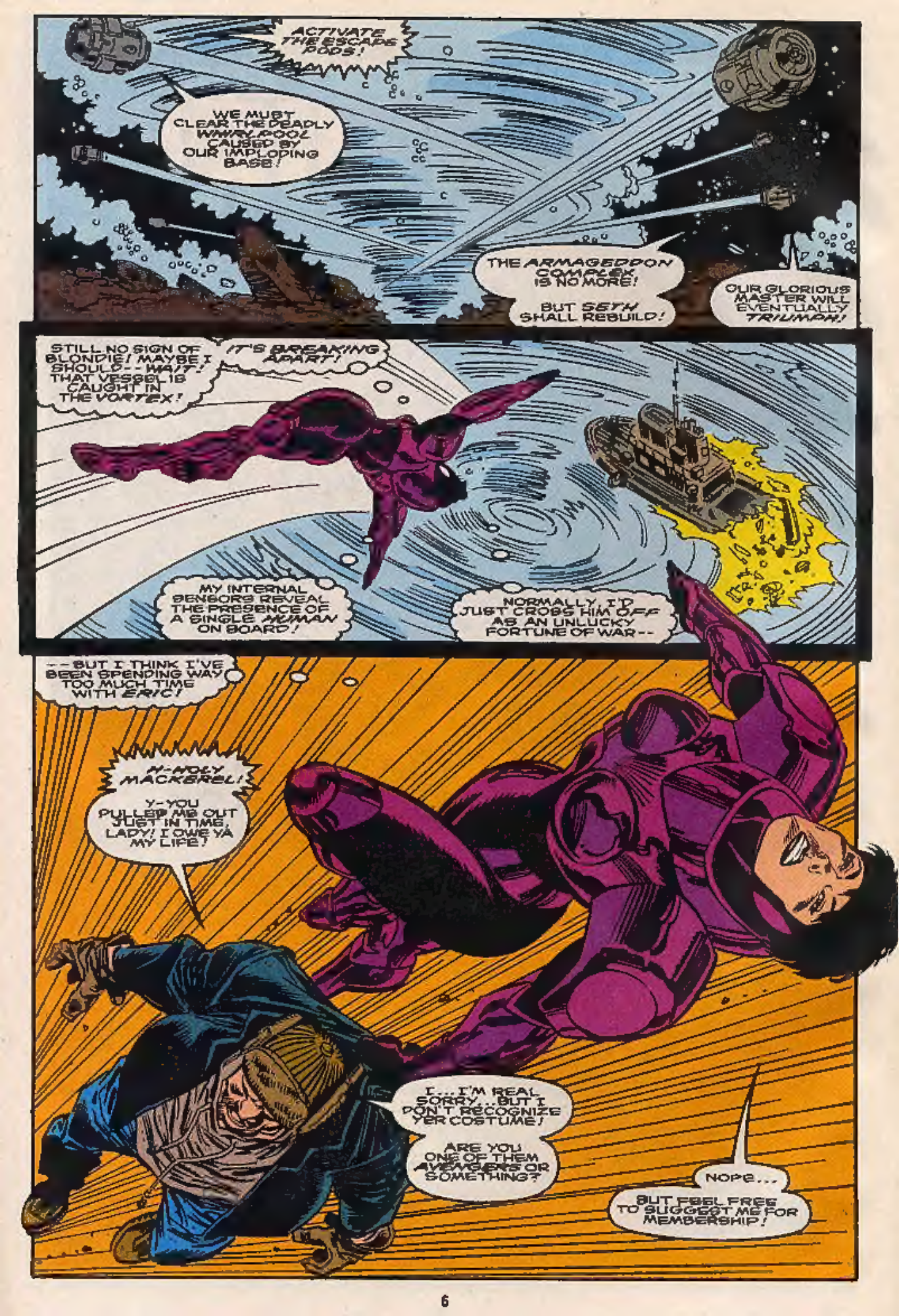
ME, I WOULD REJOICE AT THE DEATH OF SUCH AN ENEMY! BUT THAT IS NOT ERIC'S WAY!

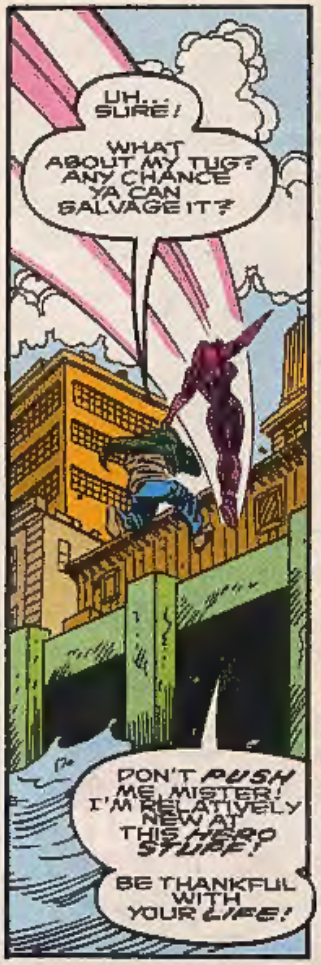
HE SEEMS TO HOLD LIFE IN GREAT REVERENCE!

I WONDER WHY--?

WHAT'S KEEPING BLONDIE?

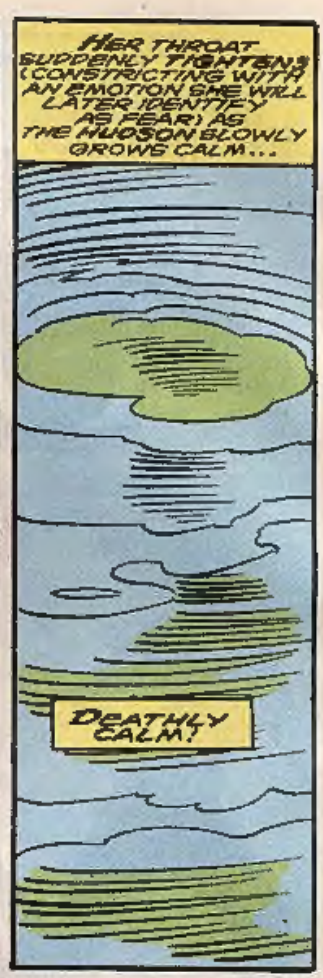
WHERE IS HE? WHY DOESN'T HE SURFACE?!


ACTIVATE THE ESCAPE PODS!
WE MUST CLEAR THE DEADLY WHIRLPOOL CAUSED BY OUR IMPLODING BASE!
THE ARMAGEDDON COMPLEX IS NO MORE!
BUT SETH SHALL REBUILD!
OUR GLORIOUS MASTER WILL EVENTUALLY TRIUMPH!
STILL NO SIGN OF BLONDIE! MAYBE I SHOULD-- WAIT! THAT VESSEL IS CAUGHT IN THE VORTEX!
IT'S BREAKING APART!
MY INTERNAL SENSORS REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF A SINGLE HUMAN ON BOARD!
NORMALLY, I'D JUST CROSS HIM OFF AS AN UNLUCKY FORTUNE OF WAR--
--BUT I THINK I'VE BEEN SPENDING WAY TOO MUCH TIME WITH ERIC!
N-HOLY MACKEREL!
Y-YOU PULLED ME OUT JUST IN TIME, LADY! I OWE YA MY LIFE!
I... I'M REAL SORRY... BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE YER COSTUME!
ARE YOU ONE OF THEM AVENGERS OR SOMETHING?
NOPE...
BUT FEEL FREE TO SUGGEST ME FOR MEMBERSHIP!


UH... SURE!
WHAT ABOUT MY TUG? ANY CHANCE YA CAN SALVAGE IT?
DON'T PUSH ME, MISTER! I'M RELATIVELY NEW AT THIS HERO STUFF!
BE THANKFUL WITH YOUR LIFE!

HEY... NO HARM IN ASKING!
SOME AVENGER YOU'D MAKE!
TERRIFIC! BLOODAXE PULLED A FADE WHILE I WAS GONE!
I COULD PROBABLY TRACK THAT FREAK WITH A WIDE-ANGLE SCAN, BUT I'M A LOT MORE WORRIED ABOUT...

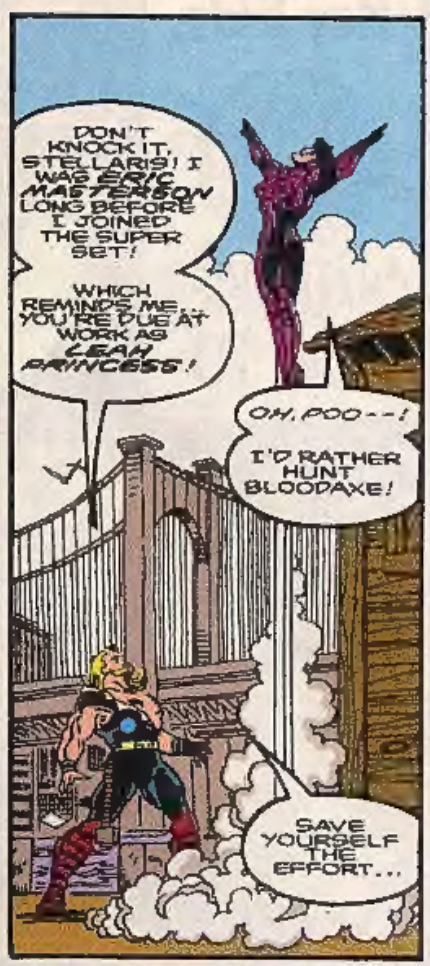
ERIC.

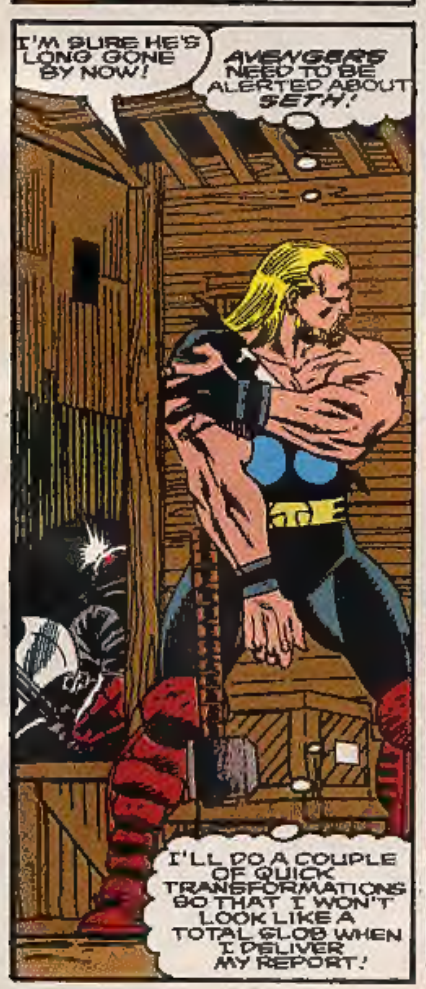

HER THROAT SUDDENLY TIGHTENS (CONSTRICTING WITH AN EMOTION SHE WILL LATER IDENTIFY AS FEAR) AS THE HUDSON SLOWLY GROWS CALM...
DEATHLY CALM!

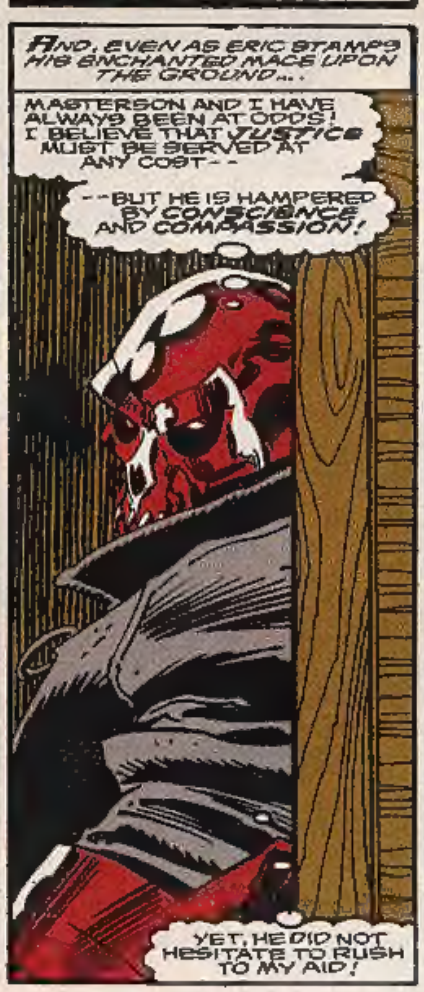
AND THEN...
AARRGGH!

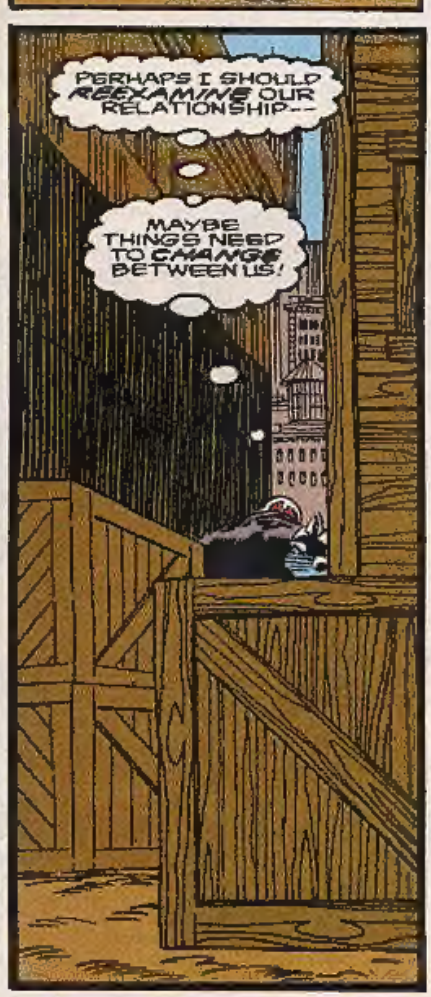
NICE ENTRANCE, BLONDIE!
A TRIFLE MELODRAMATIC FOR MY TASTES, BUT I RATE IT A SOLID SEVEN OUT OF A POSSIBLE TEN!
T-THANKS, PRINCESS...
I... I'LL TRY TO DO BETTER NEXT TIME!
FORGET IT, BIG GUY! YOU'VE ALREADY EXCEEDED THE DAILY RECOMMENDED DOSAGE FOR EXCITEMENT!

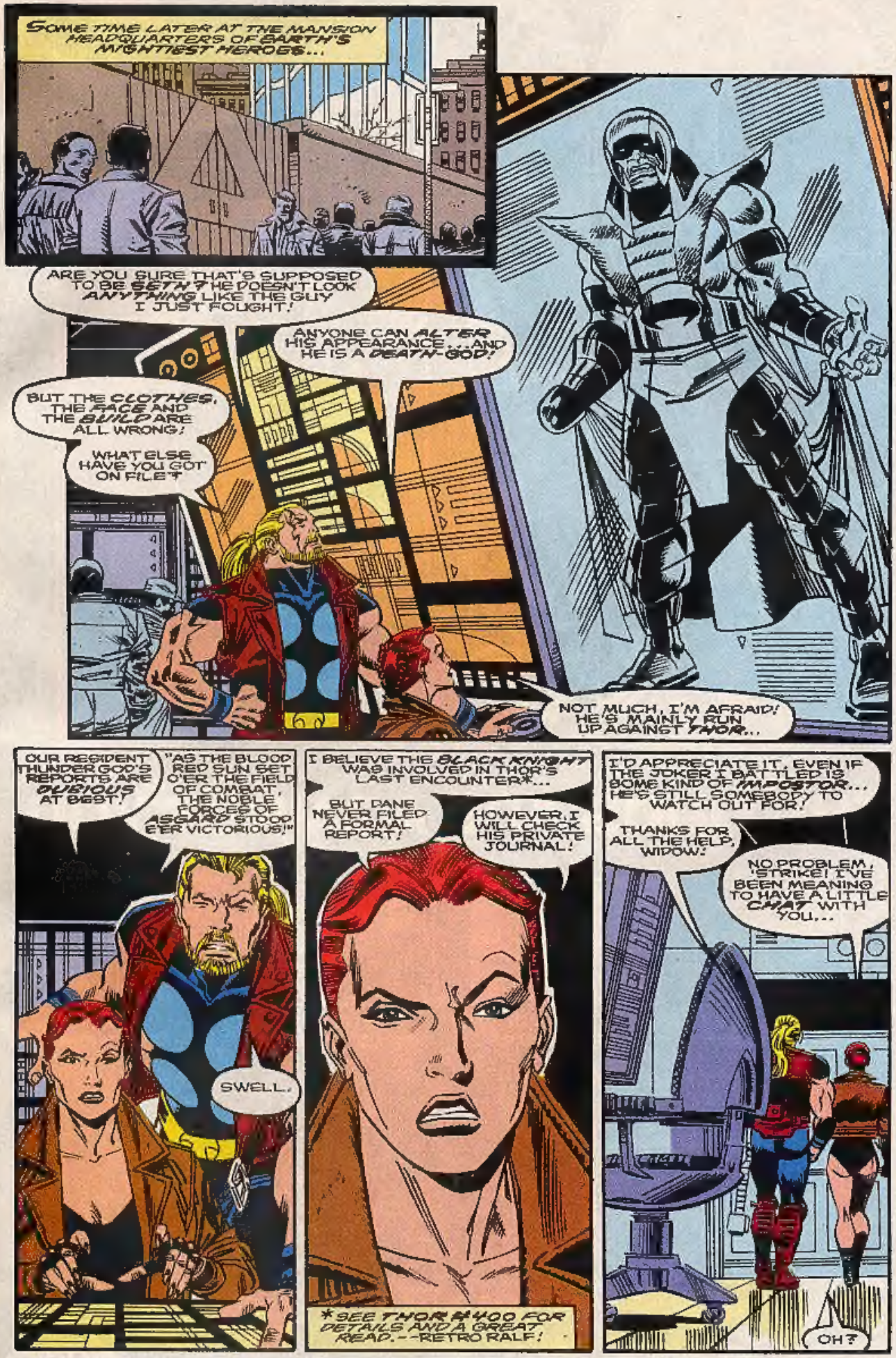
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THAT FUNNY-LOOKING SCAR?
A FORGET-ME-NOT FROM SETH!
I GUESS HE DIDN'T REALIZE MY BODY MAGICALLY HEALS ITSELF WHENEVER I TRANSFORM BACK INTO CIVILIAN MODE.
OH, YOU AND YOUR SILLY SECRET IDENTITY.


DON'T KNOCK IT, STELLARIS! I WAS ERIC MASTERSON LONG BEFORE I JOINED THE SUPER SET!
WHICH REMINDS ME... YOU'RE DUE AT WORK AS LEAH PRINCESS!
OH, POO--!
I'D RATHER HUNT BLOODAXE!
SAVE YOURSELF THE EFFORT...

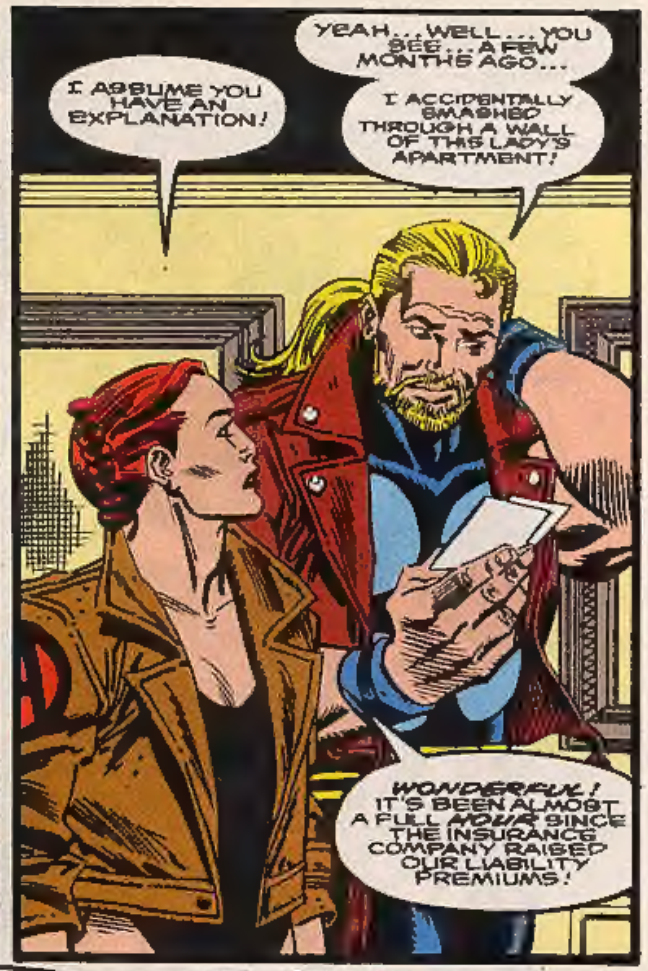

I'M SURE HE'S LONG GONE BY NOW!
AVENGERS NEED TO BE ALERTED ABOUT SETH!
I'LL DO A COUPLE OF QUICK TRANSFORMATIONS SO THAT I WON'T LOOK LIKE A TOTAL GLOB WHEN I DELIVER MY REPORT!

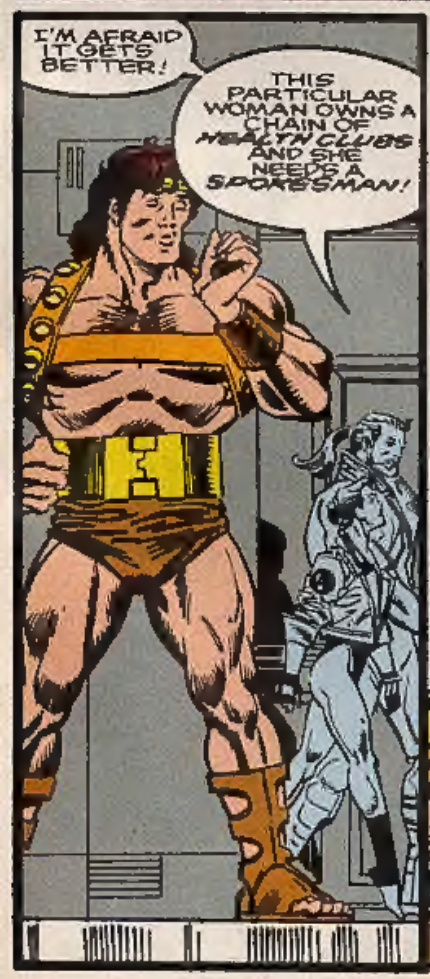

AND, EVEN AS ERIC STAMPS HIS ENCHANTED MACE UPON THE GROUND...
MASTERSON AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AT ODDS! I BELIEVE THAT JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED AT ANY COST--
--BUT HE IS HAMPERED BY CONSCIENCE AND COMPASSION!
YET, HE DID NOT HESITATE TO RUSH TO MY AID!


PERHAPS I SHOULD REEXAMINE OUR RELATIONSHIP--
MAYBE THINGS NEED TO CHANGE BETWEEN US!

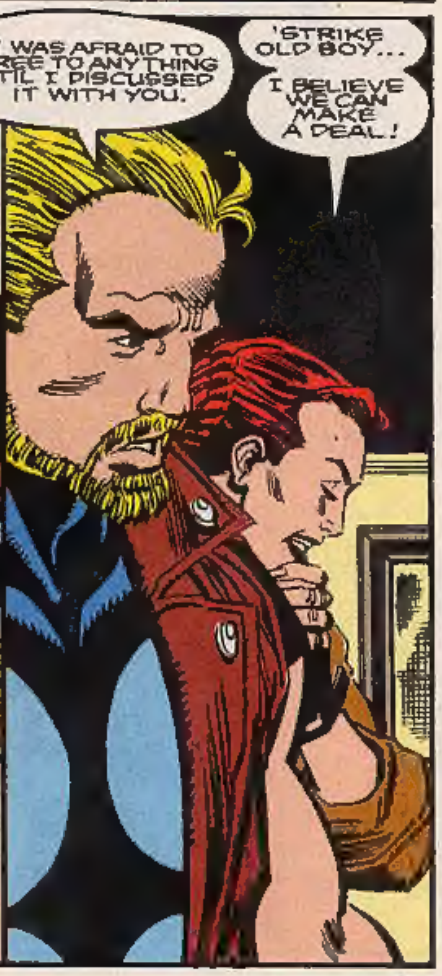

SOME TIME LATER AT THE MANSION HEADQUARTERS OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SETH? HE DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE GUY I JUST FOUGHT!
ANYONE CAN ALTER HIS APPEARANCE...AND HE IS A DEATH-GOD!
BUT THE CLOTHES, THE FACE AND THE BUILD ARE ALL WRONG!
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT ON FILE?
NOT MUCH, I'M AFRAID! HE'S MAINLY RUN UP AGAINST THOR...
OUR RESIDENT THUNDER GOD'S REPORTS ARE DUBIOUS AT BEST!
"AS THE BLOOD RED SUN SET O'ER THE FIELD OF COMBAT, THE NOBLE FORCES OF ASGARD STOOD E'ER VICTORIOUS!"
SWELL.
I BELIEVE THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS INVOLVED IN THOR'S LAST ENCOUNTER*...
BUT DANE NEVER FILED A FORMAL REPORT!
HOWEVER, I WILL CHECK HIS PRIVATE JOURNAL!
*SEE THOR #400 FOR DETAILS AND A GREAT READ.--RETRO RALF!
I'D APPRECIATE IT, EVEN IF THE JOKER I BATTLED IS SOME KIND OF IMPOSTOR... HE'S STILL SOMEBODY TO WATCH OUT FOR!
THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP, WIDOW!
NO PROBLEM, 'STRIKE! I'VE BEEN MEANING TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH YOU...
OH?

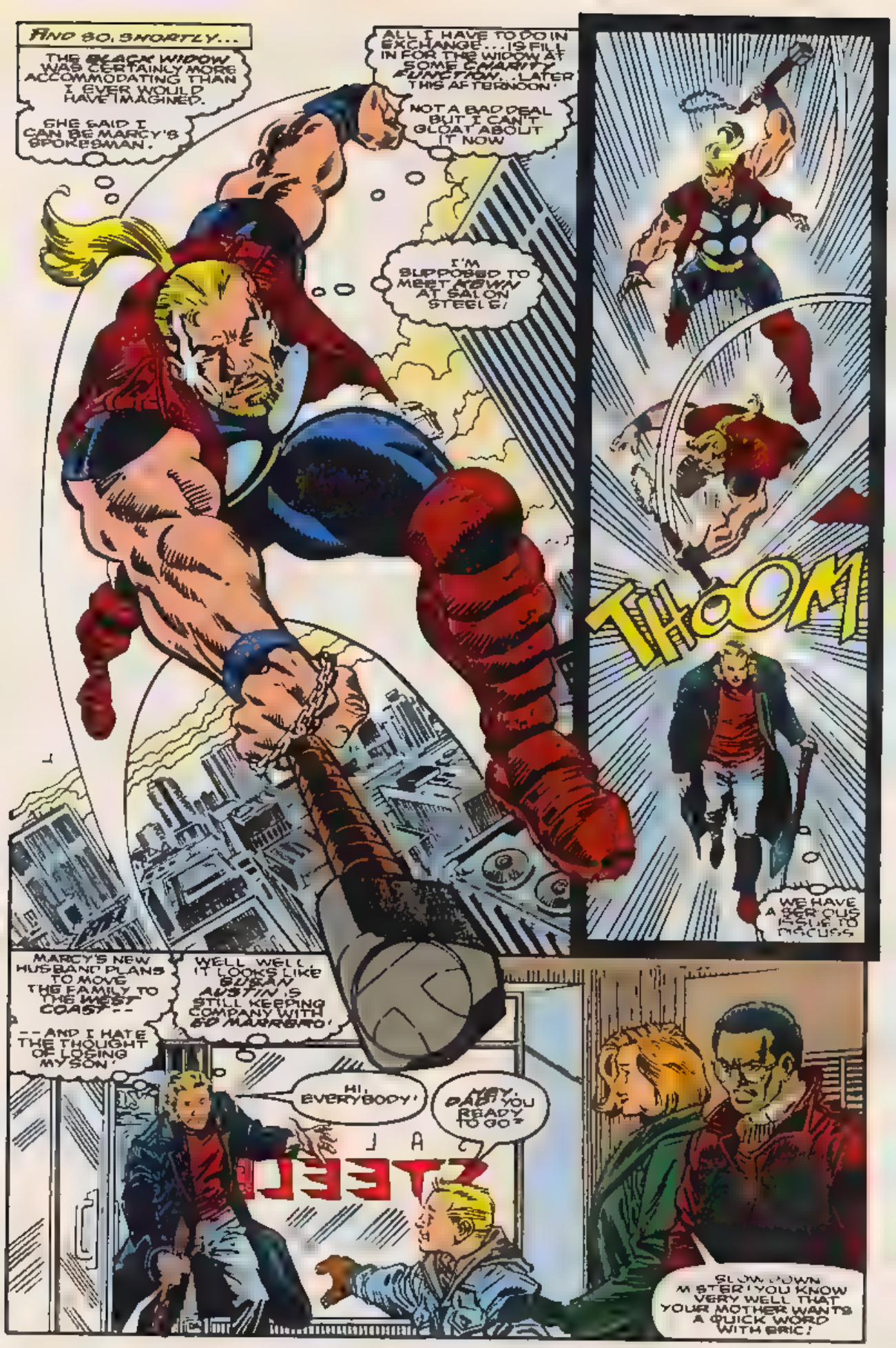
FIRST OFF, YOU SHOULDN'T BE TYING UP THE AVENGER'S SWITCHBOARD WITH PERSONAL BUSINESS!
A WOMAN BY THE NAME OF MARCY MASTERSON-STEELE HAS CALLED YOU REPEATEDLY...
...ABOUT A TELEVISION COMMERCIAL?!
MOO-BOY! MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CONFESS THAT MARCY'S MY EX-WIFE...


I ASSUME YOU HAVE AN EXPLANATION!
YEAH... WELL... YOU SEE... A FEW MONTHS AGO...
I ACCIDENTALLY SMASHED THROUGH A WALL OF THIS LADY'S APARTMENT!
WONDERFUL! IT'S BEEN ALMOST A FULL HOUR SINCE THE INSURANCE COMPANY RAISED OUR LIABILITY PREMIUMS!


I'M AFRAID IT GETS BETTER!
THIS PARTICULAR WOMAN OWNS A CHAIN OF HEALTH CLUBS AND SHE NEEDS A SPOKESMAN!

SHE WANTS AN AVENGER... AND SAID SHE'D LET ME OFF THE HOOK IF I TOOK THE JOB!
I WAS AFRAID TO AGREE TO ANYTHING UNTIL I DISCUSSED IT WITH YOU.


'STRIKE OLD BOY...
I BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE A DEAL!

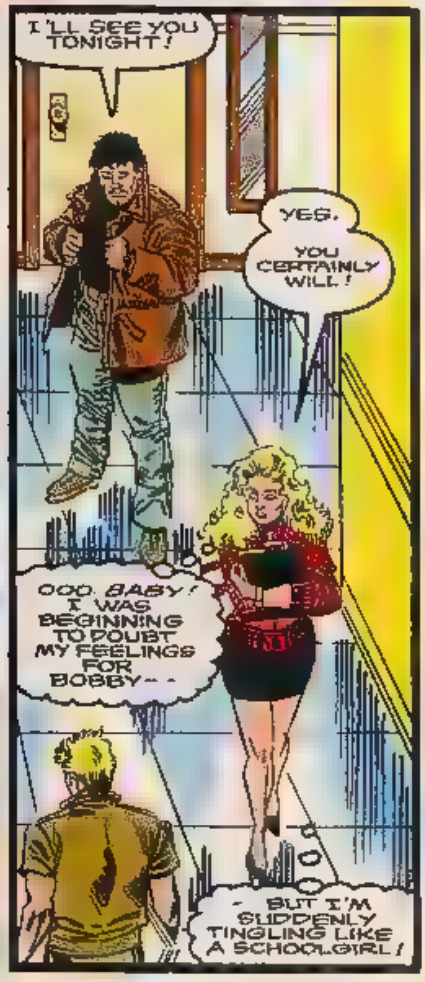

AND SO, SHORTLY...
THE BLACK WIDOW WAS CERTAINLY MORE ACCOMMODATING THAN I EVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED.
SHE SAID I CAN BE MARCY'S SPOKESMAN.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IN EXCHANGE...IS FILL IN FOR THE WIDOW AT SOME CHARITY FUNCTION...LATER THIS AFTERNOON!
NOT A BAD DEAL BUT I CAN'T GLOAT ABOUT IT NOW
I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET ROWN AT SALON STEELE!
THOOM
WE HAVE A SERIOUS ISSUE TO DISCUSS
MARCY'S NEW HUSBAND PLANS TO MOVE THE FAMILY TO THE WEST COAST--
--AND I HATE THE THOUGHT OF LOSING MY SON!
WELL, WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE BUBAN AUSTIN'S STILL KEEPING COMPANY WITH ED MAURISATO!
HI, EVERYBODY!
HEY, BABY! YOU READY TO GO?
SALON STEELE
SLOW DOWN MISTER! YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT YOUR MOTHER WANTS A QUICK WORD WITH ERIC!

JUST THEN, IN MARCY'S PRIVATE OFFICE...
I TALKED TO MY AGENT LIKE YOU ASKED!
HE SAID MY CHOICES ARE TO ACCEPT THE TRADE, OR RETIRE FROM FOOTBALL!
THEN I GUESS WE'RE OFF TO CALIFORNIA--!

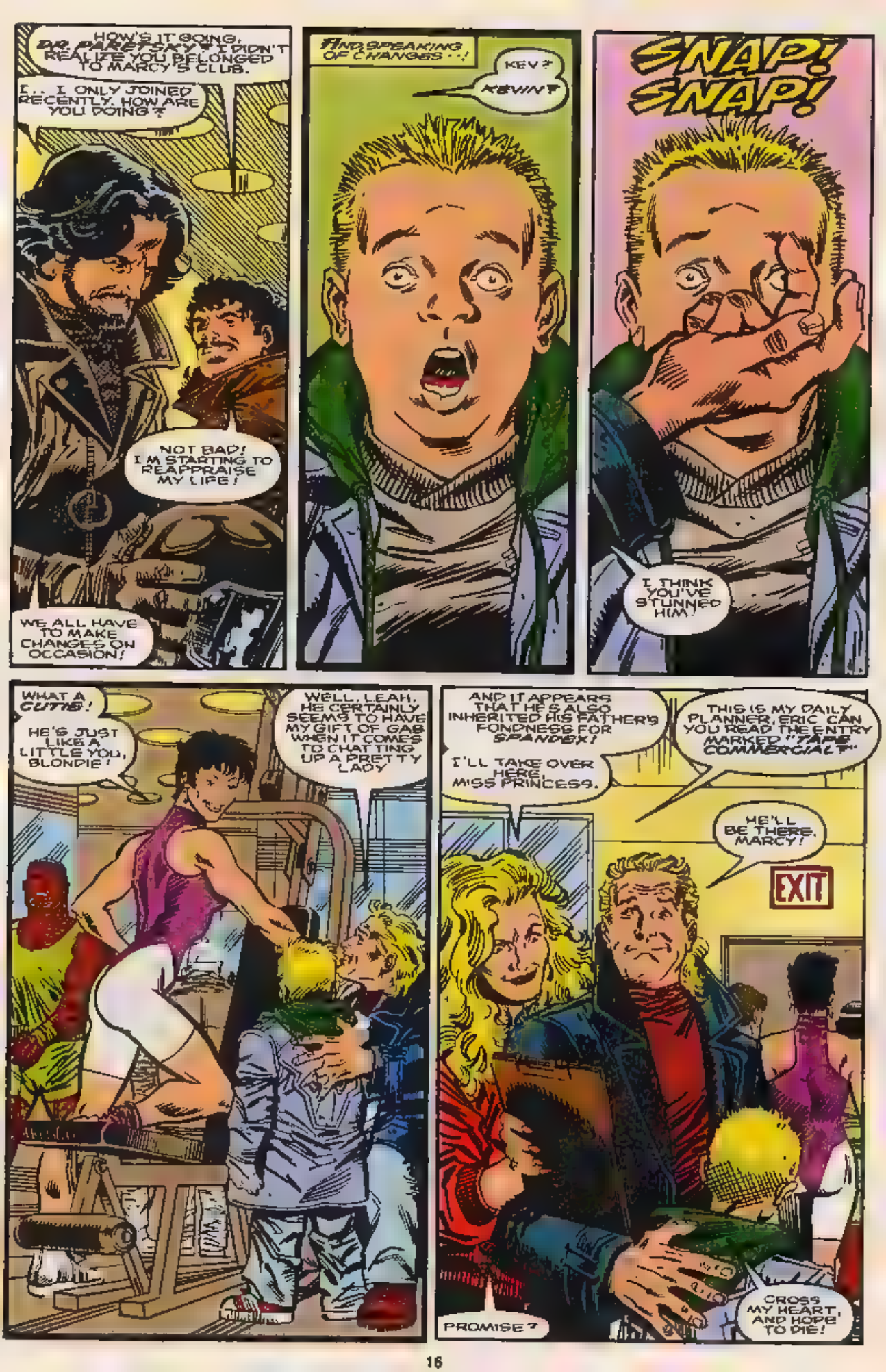
I'LL JUST PACK MY BAGS, YANK KEVIN OUT OF SCHOOL, AND UPROOT MY ENTIRE LIFE!
MAR, WAIT! PLEASE DON'T BE THAT WAY!
DON'T ADD TO THE WALL THAT'S SLOWLY BUILT UP BETWEEN US!
I REALIZE I'M THE ONE WHO'S MAINLY AT FAULT BUT I THINK I'VE FINALLY BOTTOMED OUT.

THE WEST COAST COULD BE A NEW START FOR US I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT MY CAREER! I MEAN US AS A FAMILY!
IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, IT'S HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU, AND KEVIN!
I SINCERELY WANT THE THREE OF US TO BE TOGETHER!

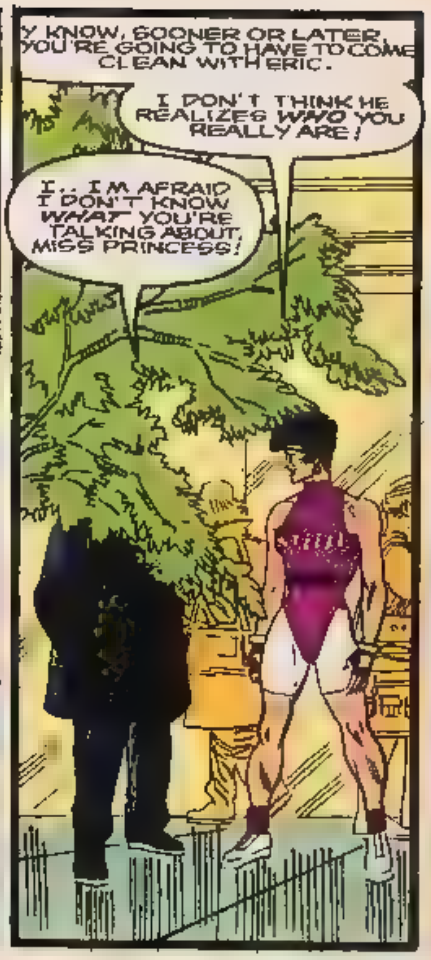
IT'S BEEN... A LONG TIME... SINCE WE'VE KISSED LIKE THAT!
TOO LONG!
MAR, I'M SO SORRY FOR ALL THE BONEHEADED MISTAKES I'VE MADE RECENTLY! I JUST HOPE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR US!
BOBBY, I...
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING NOW! JUST THINK ABOUT IT!


I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT!
YES. YOU CERTAINLY WILL!
OOO, BABY! I WAS BEGINNING TO DOUBT MY FEELINGS FOR BOBBY--
- BUT I'M SUDDENLY TINGLING LIKE A SCHOOLGIRL!

THIS IS IT! I CAN'T RISK LOSING HER!
I'VE GOT TO MAKE WHATEVER CHANGES ARE NECESSARY TO GET MYSELF BACK ON TRACK!
HEY! LOOK WHO'S HEADED IN MY DIRECTION--

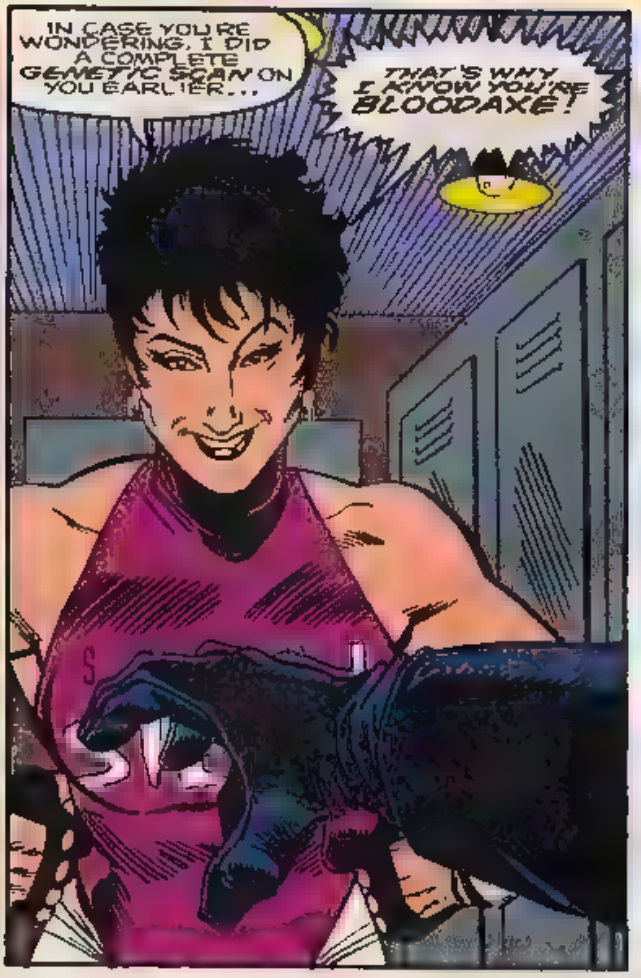

HOW'S IT GOING, DR. PARKER? I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU BELONGED TO MARCY'S CLUB.
I... I ONLY JOINED RECENTLY. HOW ARE YOU DOING?
NOT BAD! I'M STARTING TO REAPPRAISE MY LIFE!
WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE CHANGES ON OCCASION!
AND, SPEAKING OF CHANGES...!
KEV?
KEVIN?
SNAP! SNAP!
I THINK YOU'VE STUNNED HIM!
WHAT A CUTIE!
HE'S JUST LIKE A LITTLE YOU, BLONDIE!
WELL, LEAH, HE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE MY GIFT OF GAB WHEN IT COMES TO CHATTING UP A PRETTY LADY
AND IT APPEARS THAT HE'S ALSO INHERITED HIS FATHER'S FONDNESS FOR SPANDEX!
I'LL TAKE OVER HERE, MISS PRINCESS.
THIS IS MY DAILY PLANNER, ERIC. CAN YOU READ THE ENTRY MARKED "TAPE COMMERCIAL"?
HE'LL BE THERE, MARCY!
EXIT
PROMISE?
CROSS MY HEART, AND HOPE TO DIE!

HOW DO HUMANS GET THOSE LITTLE REPLICATIONS OF THEMSELVES?
I'M SURE ERIC WILL BE HAPPY TO SHOW ME!
HI, THERE! I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP!
HELLO, LEAH

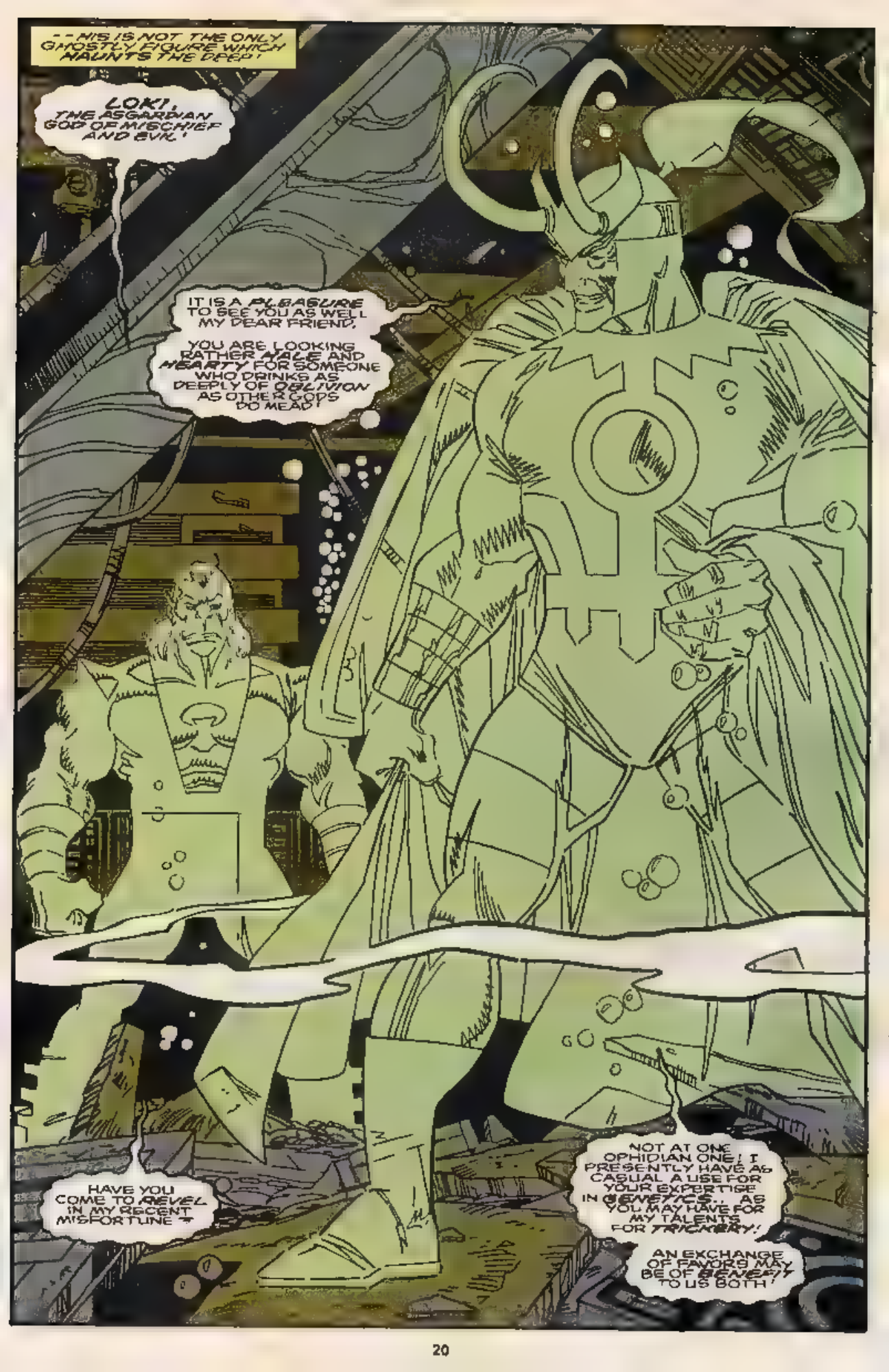

Y KNOW, SOONER OR LATER, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME CLEAN WITH ERIC.
I DON'T THINK HE REALIZES WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
I.. I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MISS PRINCESS!

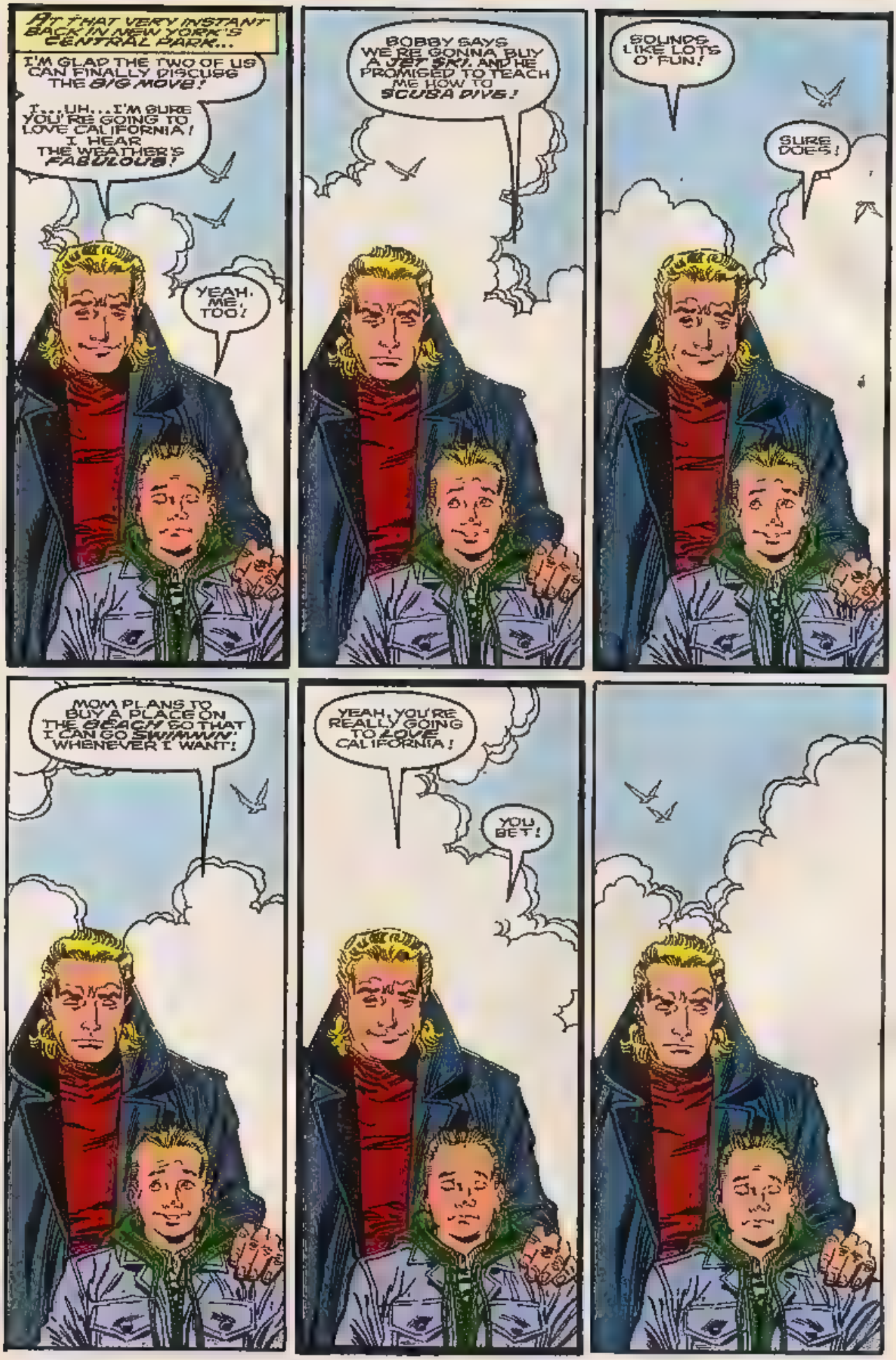
WHOOPS! I GUESS YOU'RE INTO THAT SILLY SECRET IDENTITY THING, TOO!
C'MON! I KNOW WHERE WE CAN TALK IN PRIVATE!

THIS ISN'T WORKING LIKE I PLANNED!
I WAS CERTAIN THAT STELLARIS AND MASTERSON'S ROOMMATE WERE THE SAME PERSON, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D RECOGNIZE ME!
PERFECT! WE HAVE THE ENTIRE LOCKER ROOM TO OURSELVES!

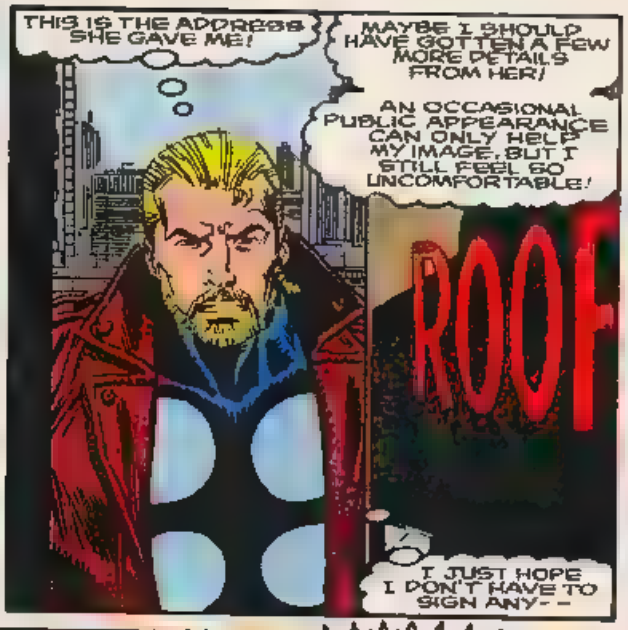

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, I DID A COMPLETE GENETIC SCAN ON YOU EARLIER...
THAT'S WHY I KNOW YOU'RE BLOODAXE!

MEANWHILE, EMPLOYING AN ADVANCED STEALTH TECHNOLOGY WHICH RENDERS IT COMPLETELY INVISIBLE TO THE MOST SOPHISTICATED DETECTION DEVICES DEVELOPED ON THIS WORLD-
--A SINISTER UNDERWATER CRAFT PROWLS THE NEW YORK COASTLINE LIKE A HUNGRY PREDATOR!
WHY DOESN'T THE MASTER GIVE US NEW ORDERS?
WHY HAS HE LOCKED HIMSELF WITHIN HIS READY ROOM?
CLAMP IT, PAL! IF HE SHOULD HEAR YOU MOUTHIN' OFF...
JUST DON'T OKAY?!
ALONE IN HIS CHAMBERS SITS THE PHYSICAL FORM OF THE SERPENT GOD...
UNMOVING!
UNSEEING!
AND YET MANY NAUTICAL MILES AWAY HIS ASTRAL CONSCIOUSNESS SCRUTINIZES THE SHATTERED RUINS OF HIS ARMAGEDDON COMPLEX...
FOR MONTHS HIS PRIZED GENETI-TROOPS SECRETLY DEVELOPED UNIQUE AND FASCINATING TECHNIQUES FOR CONTROLLING HUMAN DNA.
OH, THE UNRELENTING HORRORS HE WOULD HAVE UNLEASHED UPON AN UNSUSPECTING MANKIND!
BUT, EVEN AS SETH STROKES THE DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE SEETHING WITHIN HIM, HE SUDDENLY SENSES THAT--

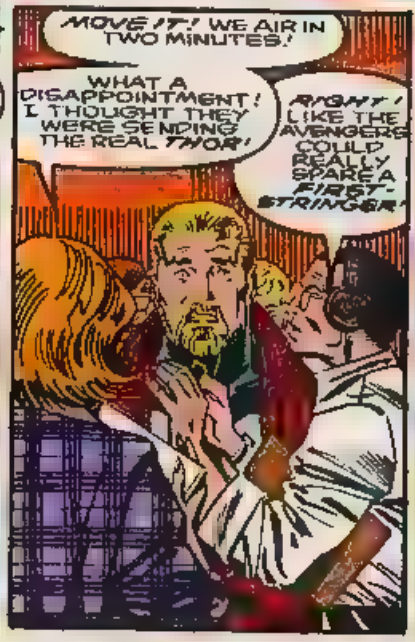

--HIS IS NOT THE ONLY GHOSTLY FIGURE WHICH HAUNTS THE DEEP!
LOKI, THE ASGARDIAN GOD OF MISCHIEF AND EVIL!
IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AS WELL MY DEAR FRIEND.
YOU ARE LOOKING RATHER PALE AND HEARTY FOR SOMEONE WHO DRINKS AS DEEPLY OF OBLIVION AS OTHER GODS DO MEAD!
HAVE YOU COME TO REVEL IN MY RECENT MISFORTUNE?
NOT AT ONE OPHIDIAN ONE! I PRESENTLY HAVE AS CASUAL A USE FOR YOUR EXPERTISE IN GENETICS... AS YOU MAY HAVE FOR MY TALENTS FOR TRICKERY!
AN EXCHANGE OF FAVORS MAY BE OF BENEFIT TO US BOTH!

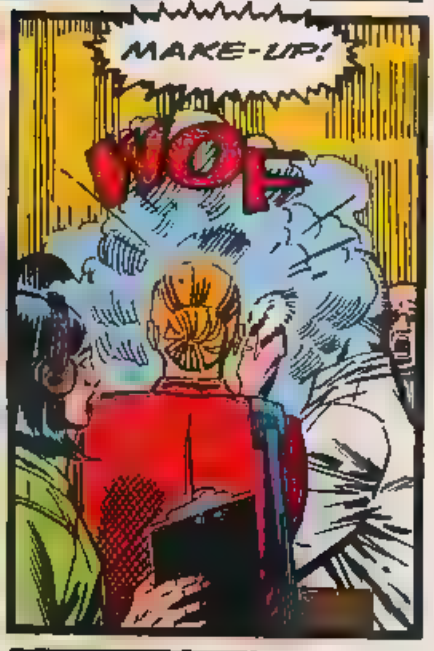

AT THAT VERY INSTANT BACK IN NEW YORK'S CENTRAL PARK...
I'M GLAD THE TWO OF US CAN FINALLY DISCUSS THE BIG MOVE!
I...UH...I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE CALIFORNIA! I HEAR THE WEATHER'S FABULOUS!
YEAH, ME, TOO!
BOBBY SAYS WE'RE GONNA BUY A JET SKI, AND HE PROMISED TO TEACH ME HOW TO SCUBA DIVE!
SOUNDS LIKE LOTS O' FUN!
SURE DOES!
MOM PLANS TO BUY A PLACE ON THE BEACH SO THAT I CAN GO SWIMMIN' WHENEVER I WANT!
YEAH, YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO LOVE CALIFORNIA!
YOU BET!

SOME TIME LATER...
I CAN BE SUCH A DORK AT TIMES! MY SON'S MOVING CLEAR ACROSS THE COUNTRY! DO I TELL HIM HOW MUCH HE MEANS TO ME- -OR HOW BADLY I'LL MISS HIM?!
NOOO! I DISCUSS THE FREAKIN' WEATHER!
I JUST HOPE I DON'T SCREW UP THE WIDOW'S CHARITY EVENT!


THIS IS THE ADDRESS SHE GAVE ME!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A FEW MORE DETAILS FROM HER!
AN OCCASIONAL PUBLIC APPEARANCE CAN ONLY HELP MY IMAGE. BUT I STILL FEEL SO UNCOMFORTABLE!
ROOF
I JUST HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO SIGN ANY- -

IT'S HIM!
IT'S THUNDER-SOMETHING-OR-OTHER!
AUTOGRAPHS?
EXIT


MOVE IT! WE AIR IN TWO MINUTES!
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT! I THOUGHT THEY WERE SENDING THE REAL THOR!
RIGHT! LIKE THE AVENGERS COULD REALLY SPARE A FIRST-STRINGER!


MAKE-UP!
WOF

WE NEED A SOUND CHECK ON HIS MICROPHONE!
SOMEBODY PINCH HIS CHEEKS! HE'S PALE AS A GHOST!
MAKE-UP! HE NEEDS MORE MAKE-UP!
I'LL BET CAPTAIN AMERICA WOULD HAVE GIVEN US MORE TIME TO PREPARE!

OKAY IN THE BOOTH?
CLEAR THE SET!
WE GO LIVE IN FIVE... FOUR... THREE. TWO..

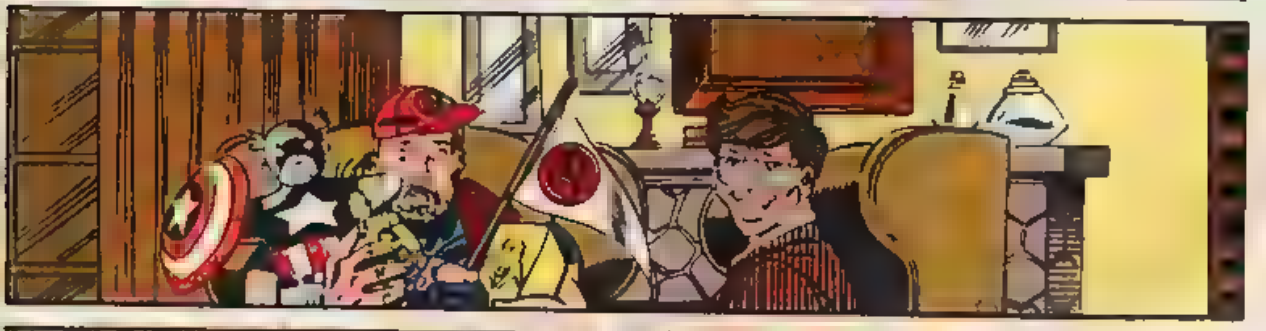
T- THIS CAN'T REAL! I MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED INTO AN ALTERNATE REALITY!
THE BLACK WIDOW BET ME UP! SHE DELIBERATELY SENT ME TO--

THE QUALITY SHOPPING SHOW!
I'LL KILL HER!

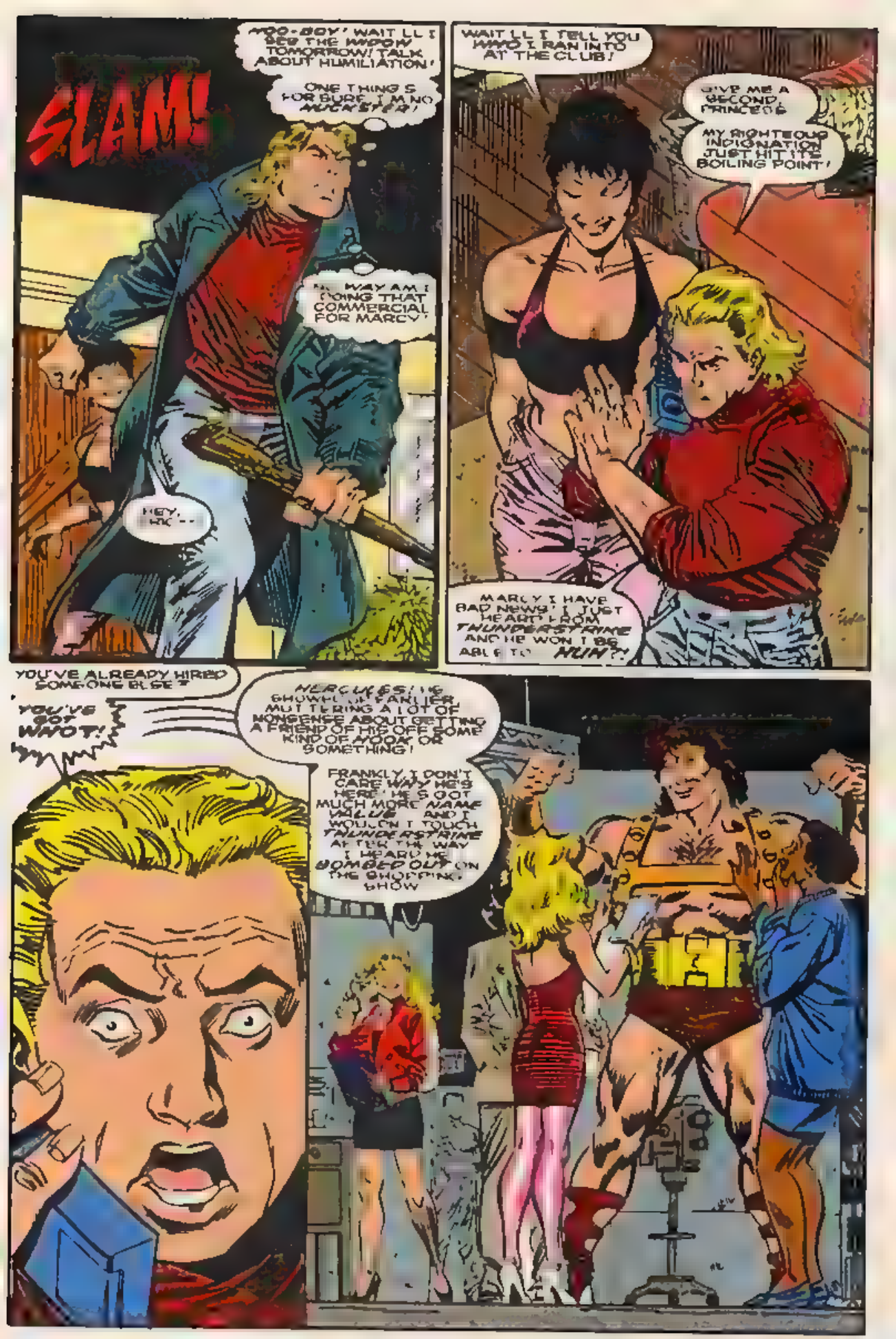
NO
FIRST I'LL TORTURE HER
THEN I'LL KILL HER!
THAT'S RIGHT SHOPPERS! THOSE LOVELY HIGH QUALITY COLLECTIBLES CAN BE YOURS...
AND ALL THE PROFITS FROM THIS SPECIAL SHOW WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY!
THE PHONE LINES ARE NOW OPEN! DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR OUR GUEST?

YEAH I'VE GOT A QUESTION FOR MISTER THOR
UH I'M NOT THOR!
I'M SORRY! LET'S MOVE TO THE NEXT CALLER...

HI! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS WHY THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS BROKE UP!
ME, TOO!
THERE SEEMS TO BE A TRIFLE MISUNDERSTANDING.
OUR GUEST TODAY IS THUNDERSTRIKE!
DO WE HAVE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR THUNDERSTRIKE?



SO TELL ME, MISTER STRIKE...
WHAT'S THOR REALLY LIKE?


SLAM!
"MOO-BOY" WAIT LL I SEE THE WIDOW TOMORROW! TALK ABOUT HUMILIATION!
ONE THING S FOR SURE, I'M NO MUCKSTER!
NO WAY AM I DOING THAT COMMERCIAL FOR MARCY!
HEY, MC...
WAIT LL I TELL YOU WHO I RAN INTO AT THE CLUB!
GIVE ME A SECOND, PRINCESS
MY RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION JUST HIT ITS BOILING POINT!
MARCY I HAVE BAD NEWS! I JUST HEARD FROM THUNDERSTRIKE AND HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN!
YOU'VE ALREADY HIRED SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU'VE GOT WHOT!
HERCULES! HE SHOWED UP EARLIER MUTTERING A LOT OF NONSENSE ABOUT GETTING A FRIEND OF HIS OFF I SOME KIND OF ADDAY OR SOMETHING!
FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE WHY HE'S HERE! HE'S GOT MUCH MORE NAME VALUE AND I WOULDN'T TOUCH THUNDERSTRIKE AFTER THE WAY I HEARD HE BOMBED OUT ON THE SHOPPING SHOW

I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS DAY--!
CAN I TELL YOU MY NEWS NOW?
HUH--?!

I'M SORRY, PRINCESS. I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE RUDE.
YOU WERE SAYING--?
WELL, IT WAS RIGHT AFTER I SPOKE WITH YOU AND KEVIN!
OH, THAT KEVIN IS SO CUTE AND CUDDLY! HIS SMILE LIGHTS UP HIS WHOLE FACE... JUST LIKE YOURS!

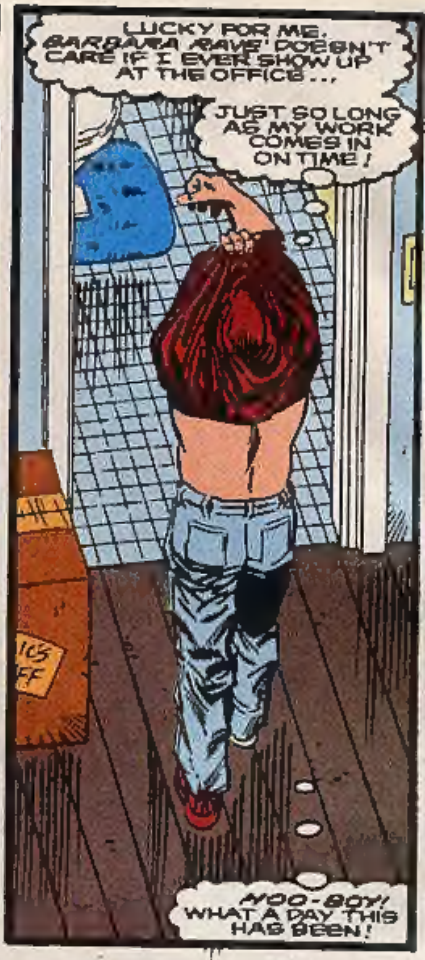
ANYWAY, I'M THINKING ABOUT BLOODAXE... WHILE I WAS HEADING TO CHECK ON THE HOT TUBS... WHEN GUESS WHO POPS UP?!

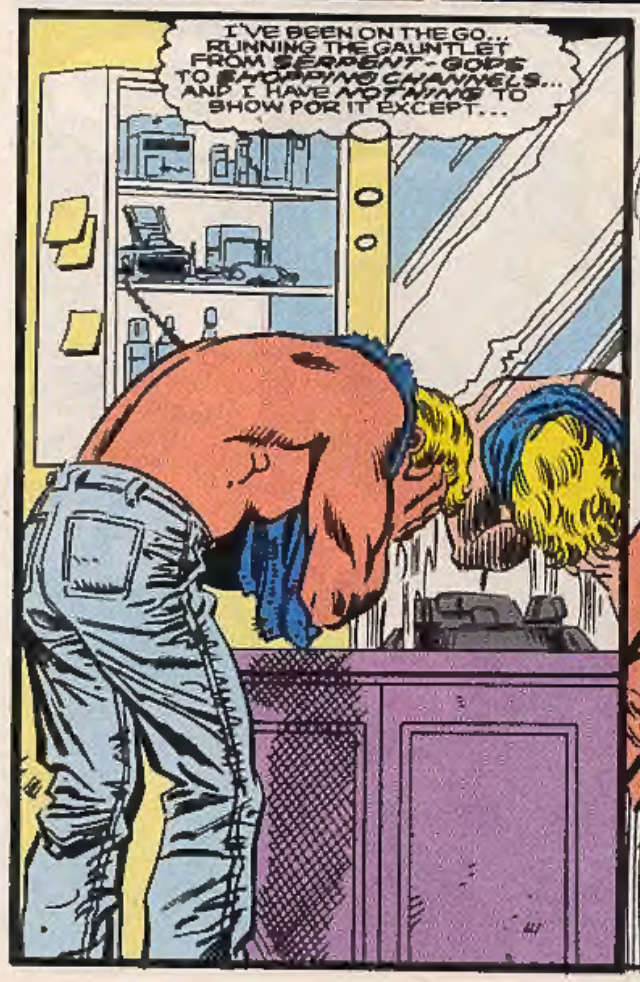
HONEYS, I'M HOME!
HOPE YOU'RE BOTH HUNGRY! IT WAS MY TURN TO SUPPLY THE EATS--
--AND I DIALED MY FINGERS TO THE BONE FOR EXOTIC GOODIES!
CHINA XPRESS

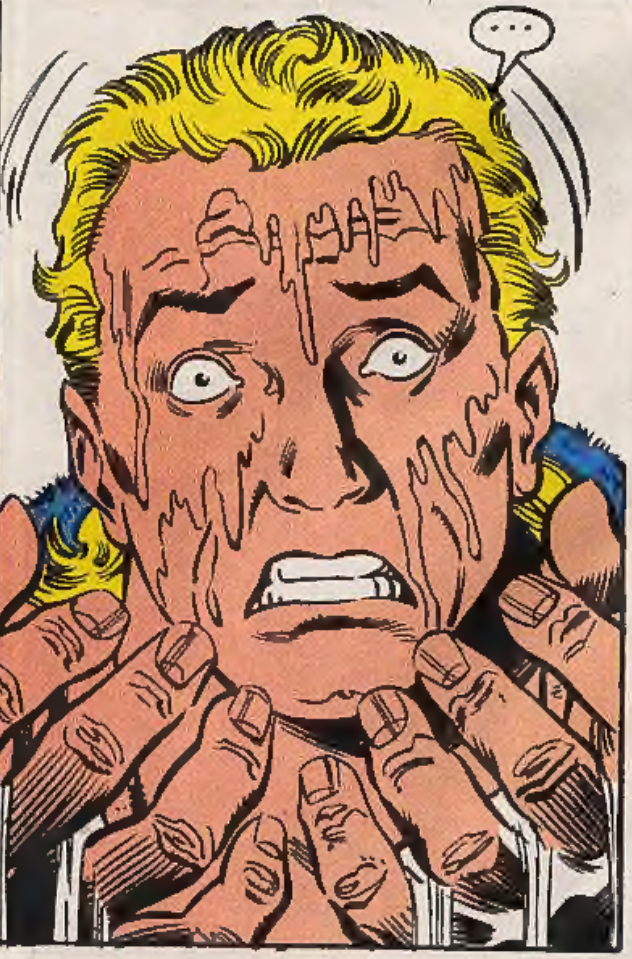
YOU GO, UNPACK, SAM! I'LL MAKE THE TABLE!
LEAH, WE'LL DISCUSS BLOODAXE LATER!
OH, YOU PEOPLE AND YOUR SILLY SECRET IDENTITIES!

AND, SHORTLY...
SEE YOU GUYS TOMORROW.
I'VE GOT TO FINISH SOME WORK FOR RAVE ARCHITECTURAL BEFORE I HIT THE SHEETS!
THANKS FOR CLEANING UP, WHITE BREAD!
THE LEAST I COULD DO, MISS SAM!

I AM TOTALLY WASTED! I NEED A QUICK SHOWER BEFORE I SNAP ON THE FAX MODEM--
--AND BUCKLE DOWN TO THE DRAWING BOARD!


LUCKY FOR ME, BARBARA RAVE DOESN'T CARE IF I EVER SHOW UP AT THE OFFICE...
JUST SO LONG AS MY WORK COMES IN ON TIME!
WOO-BOY! WHAT A DAY THIS HAS BEEN!


I'VE BEEN ON THE GO... RUNNING THE GAUNTLET FROM SERPENT-GODS TO SHOPPING CHANNELS... AND I HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT EXCEPT...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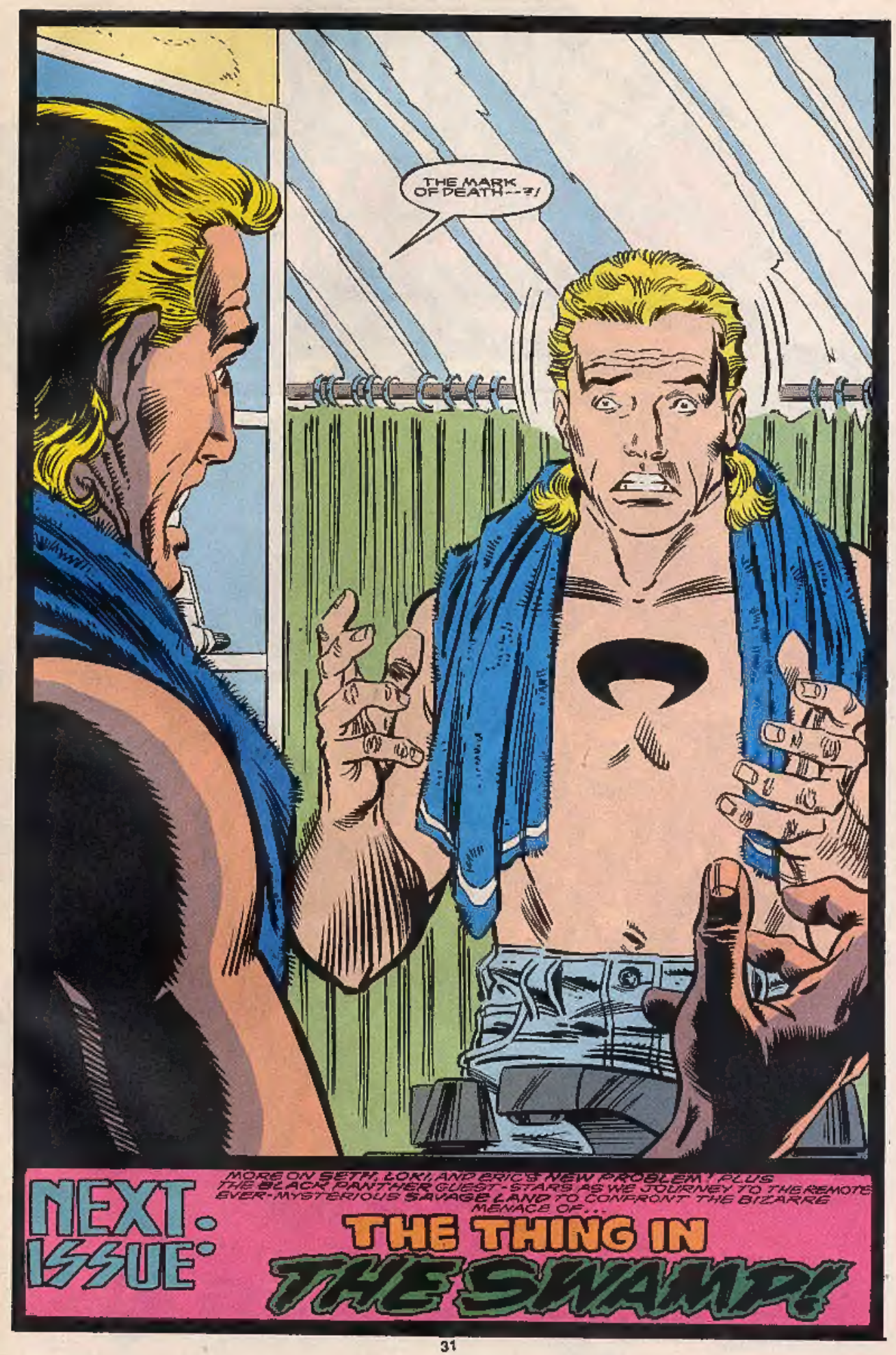
THE MARK OF DEATH--?!
NEXT ISSUE:
MORE ON SETH, LOKI, AND ERIC'S NEW PROBLEM! PLUS THE BLACK PANTHER GUEST-STARS AS WE JOURNEY TO THE REMOTE EVER-MYSTERIOUS SAVAGE LAND TO CONFRONT THE BIZARRE MENACE OF...
THE THING IN THE SWAMP!

MARVEL®

ITEM! It's a 31st century showdown as Starhawk trades cosmic blasts with the Silver Surfer in the pages of GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #60. Last month, Starhawk learned that his father was none other than Quasar! Now Starhawk wants to reclaim his dad's legacy—the quantum bands which are currently wielded by the Surfer (who, in the Guardians' time, is known as the Keeper)! Writer **Michael Gallagher** forewarned, "It's a serious cosmic battle!" Michael hailed the work of penciler **Kevin West**, saying, "This issue really shows what he can do. It looks wonderful! He really cuts loose!" The back-up is a 7-page Yellowjacket story in which "she confronts her past and her whole career choice, and she faces Slagg, a creature with a vendetta against anyone who wears a Guardians' star!" The interstellar inker for GOTG is **Steve Montano**.

ITEM! Is War Machine more powerful than a locomotive? You'll find out in WAR MACHINE #14, in which Rhodey mixes it up with the strongest member of the Rush Club, the armored powerhouse called Locomotive Breath! Writer **Dan Abnett** stressed that Locomotive Breath possesses "a strength level significantly beyond anything Rhodey's ever encountered in the past!" The story starts with a captive Rhodey waking up in the foreign land of Slorenia, where he has been taken by Loco-Breath. Loco has some sinister plans for ol' War Machine, but Rhodey winds up getting involved in the Slorenian civil war, which is led by two mystical leaders, Ember and Black Brigade. This results in a three-way clash between War Machine, Loco-Breath, and Ember. As Dan noted, "War Machine's got his hands full!"

Commenting on the artistry of **Dave Chisholm** and **Tim Dzon**, Dan said, "It's very strong ... very exciting!" WAR MACHINE #14 concludes with an appearance by Force Works, and the civil war in Slorenia rages on in this month's issue of FORCE WORKS!

ITEM! "We've really pulled out all the stops," enthused writer **Ron Marz**, speaking of COSMIC POWERS UNLIMITED #1. "It's the Surfer vs. Thanos, and there isn't a better villain than Thanos for the Surfer!" The story takes readers inside the lair of Mistress Death, where she unleashes her dark designs on the Surfer. The Surfer goes to Thanos for help — but Thanos never helps anybody except himself! When asked if this results in a blockbuster battle, Ron replied, "Well, the Surfer and Thanos don't sit down to have tea!" The 36-page story features work by two ultra-cosmic artists. **Scott Benefiel** and **Steve Carr**. The issue concludes with an 11-page story starring Thanos and the original Captain Marvel(!), drawn by fan-fave SILVER SURFER artist **Ron Lim** and inked by the legendary **Terry Austin**! The wraparound front cover is by the incomparable **Claudio Castellini**! SM

COSMIC CONTEST

Answer these five quiz questions correctly and you'll be entered into a drawing to receive one of ten year-long subscriptions to the Silver Surfer. But even if the questions wipe you out, your entry will be put into a grand prize drawing where you can win:

2nd Prize – a Silver Surfer Marvel Masterworks signed by Stan Lee

1st Prize – a Silver Surfer Marvel Masterworks signed by Stan Lee, a subscription to Silver Surfer, and your choice of 3 one-year subscriptions to any other Marvel Comics

Grand Prize – a subscription to Silver Surfer, 3 one-year subscriptions to any other Marvel Comics, plus a stellar piece of original Surfer artwork from the comics!

Print all five answers, plus your name, age, address, city, state, zip code, and telephone number (including area code), on a 3 x 5 index card and sending it by April 7th, 1995 to:

Silver Surfer Contest
P.O. Box 40
Vernon, NJ 07462-0040

THE QUESTIONS:

1: What's the Silver Surfer's original name?
2: Name all seven heralds of Galactus.
3: The Surfer was a founding member of what super team?
4: What is the Silver Surfer's half-brother's name?
5: What was the name of the Skrull who impersonated the Silver Surfer?

All entries must be received by April 7th, 1995. Limit one entry per envelope. No purchase necessary. Print your name, age, address, city, state, zip code and your telephone number with area code on a 3 x 5 index card with the quiz answers. Contest open to US residents only except employees of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP and affiliated companies, promotional and advertising agencies and their families are ineligible. All entrants grant to the sponsor permission to use their name and likeness in advertising and promotion for the contest. Winners will be drawn on or about April 15th, 1995 and will be notified by telephone and/or mail. No cash equivalent or substitute prizes are offered. The prize will be awarded in the name of the contest winners and is not transferable. Offer void where prohibited by law. MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP is not responsible for lost, late, inadequate, or misdirected entries. Odds of winning will be determined by the number of valid entries received prior to the closing date of the contest. Winners list available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to "Winners List-Silver Surfer"/c/o Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, NY, NY 10016. Winners shall be responsible for all applicable taxes. Void where prohibited by law. Contest sponsored by MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. TM & © 1995 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved.